

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Though I have used the words of others, these are my beliefs. I feel very strongly that the public airwaves are being abused and that it is the FCC, whose job it is to protect the public interest, that is allowing this abuse. You, the FCC, MUST get serious about maintaining the public trust, the public airwaves.

Thank you for considering this issue seriously.
Angela Cottrill